



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture



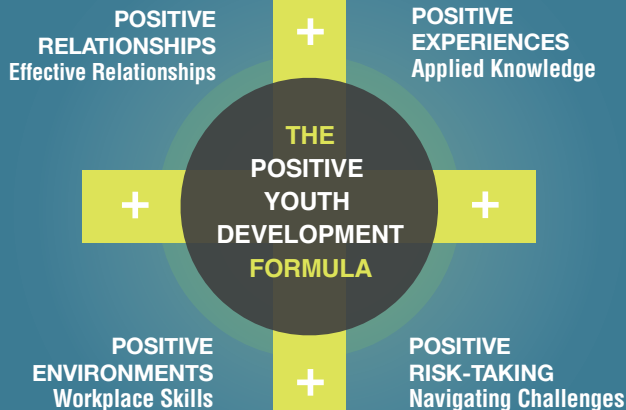
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NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and promotes transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges. | [www.nifa.usda.gov](http://www.nifa.usda.gov)

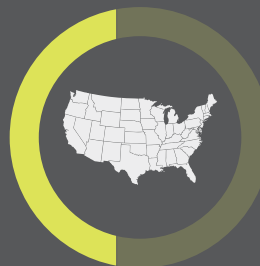
## Fostering Positive Youth Development

Positive youth development is an intentional approach to promote positive outcomes for young people through family and community youth engagement for the benefit of society. Positive youth development focuses on building relationships while delivering learning content, ultimately giving youth the skillsets they need to navigate socially: respect, teamwork, and self care. NIFA prioritizes positive youth development programming to ensure the future employability of America's children and support our nation's economy.

### Employability Skills



### Filling the Gap



**45 PERCENT** OF ALL U.S. EMPLOYERS REPORTED DIFFICULTIES IN FILLING JOBS IN 2016

### EMPLOYABILITY ASSETS APPLICANTS LACK

- Professionalism & Ethics
- Experience
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Digital Competency
- Technical Competencies
- Leadership
- Communication
- Ability to work in diverse groups



**40%**

**Projected proportion of unfilled jobs in the food and agricultural system**

### A Century of Success

NIFA IS COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE.

**The 4-H Youth Development Program** serves as a model program for the practice of positive youth development. NIFA and its predecessor agencies have more than a 100-year history of providing federal leadership for the National 4-H Program in partnership with the land-grant university-based Cooperative Extension System. The National 4-H Council provides additional private support.



**6 OUT OF 10**

The ratio of youth enrolled in 4-H who are more likely to report healthier habits and participate in afterschool science, engineering, or computer technology programs.



**"As a member of 4-H...most importantly for me, a very shy kid, was learning that I was able to do public speaking. 4-H helped me to overcome my own hurdles to become a team player and a leader."**

PEGGY WHITSON | Iowa 4-H Alum  
Commander of the International Space Station



4-H is the Youth Development Program of the Cooperative Extension System

Congressional funding

Administration of federal funds by NIFA

Land-grant universities use federal plus matching state and local funds to manage extension programs

Extension professionals translate knowledge to meet the unique needs of communities across America

Extension professionals are integrated within more than 3,000 counties and county equivalents across all U.S. states, districts, and territories. These professionals translate science into opportunities to help improve people's lives.

**SOURCES:** 2016-2017 Talent Shortage Survey. [www.manpowergroup.com](http://www.manpowergroup.com) | 4-H and NASA: Empowering today's True Leaders. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRp5dtRA5k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRp5dtRA5k) | Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in Food, Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources, and the Environment - United States, 2015-2020. [www.purdue.edu/usda/employment](http://www.purdue.edu/usda/employment) | Employability Skills Framework. [cte.ed.gov/employabilityskills/index.php/framework/](http://cte.ed.gov/employabilityskills/index.php/framework/) | The Positive Development of Youth: Report of the Findings from the First Seven Years of the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development. <https://ase.tufts.edu/laryd/researchPositive4HPublications.htm>.

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